

Message Text

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60

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 EB-07 HEW-02 AID-05 PM-03 NSC-05

SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 DPW-01 SR-02

ORM-01 /069 W

----- 111700

R 261124Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

MACTHAI

PACAF PROCUREMENT CENTER

INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

SECSTATE WASHDC 2000

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5034

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH

SUBJ: UNICEF PROBLEM IN DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH

SUMMARY: ACCORDING NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY BANGKOK, UNICEF IS HAVING DIFFICULTY DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN CARGO TO PHNOM PENH OWING TO OBSTRUCTIONISM BY AIR CAMBODGE. RECOMMEND WE HELP WITH PROBLEM AND THAT SOME OF CARGO BE CARRIED BY REGULAR US CAMBODIAN AIRLIFT OPERATION FOR POLITICAL BENEFITS THEREIN. END SUMMARY

1. EMBASSY OF NEW ZEALAND CONTACTED US TODAY, MARCH 26, WITH FOLLOWING PROBLEM. UNICEF HAS 200 TONS POWDERED MILK FOR DONATION TO CAMBODIA AWAITING TRANSPORT TO PHNOM PENH. OF TOTAL, 80 TONS ARE IN BANGKOK AND 120 TONS IN SINGAPORE. UNICEF ALSO HAS OTHER HUMANTARIAN CARGO FOR PHNOM PENH.

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2. UNICEF ARRANGED WITH BIRD AIR TO TRANSPORT

THIS CARGO TO PHNOM PENH USING, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, DC-6'S. CARGO CONSISTS OF PALLETIZED 25 KILOGRAM MULTI-WALLED PACKAGES.

3. CAMBODIAN AIRLINE, AIR CAMBODGE, GOT WIND OF ARRANGEMENT AND IN ORDER OBTAIN THE BUSINESS FOR ITSELF, SUCCEEDED IN ARRANGING SUSPENSION OF BIRD AIR'S LANDING RIGHTS FOR THE UNICEF OPERATION. THIS HAS ALREADY RESULTED IN INABILITY OF UNICEF TO DELIVER CONSIGNMENT OF BLOOD PLASMA VIA BIRD AIR TO PHNOM PENH. UNICEF IS PREPARED TO SHIP CARGO BY ANY AVAILABLE MEANS, INCLUDING AIR CAMBODGE, BUT HAS BEEN UNABLE WORK OUT ARRANGEMENTS AND DOUBTS THAT AIR CAMBODGE HAS CAPABILITY TO TRANSPORT CARGO. UNICEF APPROACH TO CAMBODIAN EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS FAILED PRODUCE RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM.

4. WE HAVE NOT BEEN DIRECTLY APPROACHED BY UNICEF. EMBASSY OF NEW ZEALAND'S INTEREST IN MATTER STEMS FROM FACT THAT 40 OUT OF 80 TONS OF POWDERED MILK IN BANGKOK ARE GIFT OF GNZ.

5. ADDRESSEES ARE ALREADY AWARE OF PROBLEMS HERE CONCERNING RTG POLICY TOWARD US AIRLIFT SUPPORT OF CAMBODIA FROM THAILAND. WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL TO US OBJECTIVES IF SOME OR ALL OF BANGKOK UNICEF MILK COULD BE SHIPPED VIA OUR REGULAR BIRD AIR OR DC-8 AIRLIFT. THIS COULD BE PUBLICIZED TO EMPHASIZE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF OUR OPERATIONS, WHICH WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO RTG.

6. FOR PHNOM PENH. YOU MAY WISH EXPLORE LANDING RIGHTS PROBLEM WITH GKR, EMPHASIZING THAT AIR CAMBODGE'S WISH TO MAKE PROFIT FROM MERCY CARGO SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPEDE DELIVERY. (FYI: WE DO NOT EXCLUDE AIR CAMBODGE PARTICIPATION IN TRANSPORT OF THIS CARGO IF IT HAS CAPABILITY TO DO SO.)

7. FOR MACTHAI AND PACAF PROCUREMENT CENTER: WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE, FOR REASONS STATED
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PARA 5 ABOVE, TO SHIP SOME OR ALL OF POWDERED MILK NOW IN BANGKOK, AND PERHAPS ALSO, OTHER UNICEF HUMANITARIAN CARGO FOR PHNOM PENH, VIA THE USAF/ BIRD AIR C-130'S AND DC-8'S THAT CARRY OUT REGULAR CAMBODIAN AIRLIFT. MILK (AND PRESUMABLY OTHER CARGO) COULD BE MOVED FROM BANGKOK TO UTAPAO, AND WE UNDERSTAND UNICEF HAS FUNDS TO COVER ANY AND ALL EXPENSES. IS IT LEGALLY AND TECHNICALLY POSSIBLE TO ENGAGE

USAF C-130'S NOW BEING USED BY BIRD AIR OUT OF UTAPAO
OR DC-8'S FOR THIS PURPOSE ON REIMBURSABLE BASIS?
WOULD CONTRACT RENEGOTIATION BE REQUIRED, AND
HOW LONG WOULD THIS TAKE?

8. AT APPROPRIATE POINT WE MIGHT WISH, THROUGH
NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY, TO STIMULATE DIRECT APPROACH
FROM UNICEF BANGKOK. BEFORE DOING SO, HOWEVER,
WE NEED TO BE APPRISED OF POSSIBILITIES AS
DISCUSSED HEREIN.
MASTERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR CARGO, VOLUNTARY AGENCIES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, MILITARY AIRLIFTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO05034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0554
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750315/aaaaanii.tel
Line Count: 126
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNICEF PROBLEM IN DELIVERING SUPPLIES TO PHNOM PENH SUMMARY: ACCORDING NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY BANGKOK, UNICEF
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, TH, UNICEF
To: PHNOM PENH
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006